Controlling Quacks

651. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large percentage of people depend on quacks, and many people are going to ojhas and majic healers who are mercifully somewhat less expensive than quacks;

(b) if so, the comments of Government thereon;

(c) whether there is a strong need for reducing the dependence of the people, particularly the rural poor, on exploitative private healthcare;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government during the last two years, State-wise;

(e) whether Government are facing financial crunch to curb such situations;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/to be taken by Government to improve the situation in each State/U.T.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) Health is a State subject and therefore it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to ensure availability of proper healthcare facilities for all sections of people and also take appropriate action against violators of law. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government through various schemes and national programmes. The Central Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission as a comprehensive rural health care programme to provide integrated health care service to the people especially the rural poor.

Absenteeism of Health care Officials

652. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the absenteeism of health-care officials in many areas coupled with inadequate facilities for primary healthcare is prevailing in the country;